the roofs of the coaches were detrained by RPF/GRP and Station Staff, but they again got on to the roof. A departmental inquiry into this incident has been ordered.

**Ramming of Karnataka Express at New Delhi Railway Station**

200. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Express rammed into a shed housing the Carriage and Wagon Office at New Delhi Railway Station on 31st July, 1991, resulting in death and injuries to several persons;

(b) if so, whether the train rammed into the shed due to an operational error;

(c) if so, how this operational error occurred and who is responsible for such lapse;

(d) whether the Government has contemplated any steps to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the amount of compensation paid to the injured and to the next of the kin who died?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) On 31-7-91, while the empty rake of 2627 Karnataka Express was being shunted from the platform line to the washing line No. 2 of New Delhi Coaching yard, it rammed into the shed housing the Carriage and Wagon depot at New Delhi Railway Station.

As a consequence, 3 railway staff died and 1 person was injured. Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 17,500/- has been made to the next of kin of those killed and the injured person. No compensation has been paid so far.

This accident occurred due to incorrect setting of points. Four shunting staff have been held responsible for this accident.

A safety drive was immediately launched to educate the staff on the precautions to be observed while performing shunting operations in yards.

**Exploitation of Gold deposits in Purulia District, West Bengal**

201. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high range of gold deposits have been discovered in southern part of Purulia District in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any programme to exploit these gold deposits; if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Shortfall in production of Rice**

202. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a shortfall to the tune of 4 million tonnes of rice is anticipated during the kharif season;

(b) if so, the likely percentage of shortfall in the rice production target, State-wise, during 1991-92 as against the anticipated growth rate in foodgrains target; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the gap between demand and supply of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) It is early to